



MONTEREY NEWS

AUGUST 1996
VOLUME XXVI · Number 8



THE TOWN

Papers Served on Town. On July 22 the Monterey Select Board and Town Clerk were served with papers by Sheffield's Boston lawyer Alan Jay Rom, advising that Monterey is one of four defendants (the others are Alford, Egremont, and New Marlborough) in a law suit alleging that Sheffield is under-represented on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee.

Representatives of the four towns' Boards had met prior to being served, and quickly agreed to attempt mediation of the one man/one vote impasse. However, on the same day the Board was served, Janet Stanton, Sheffield Select Board Chair, contacted Monterey Board Chair Gige O'Connell to inform her that the Sheffield Board is unanimous in wanting its lawyers present at any mediation. O'Connell expressed great concern that

this would result in unnecessary expense, and lessen the opportunity for amicable compromise.

Loan Criteria Loosen.

A report in the June *Monterey News* noted the opportunity for septic system repair using low-interest loans available based on income and number of occupants using the system. We have recently learned that these loans, made available by the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, may be available to *any* resident needing septic system repair. Peter Kolodziej, Monterey Sanitary Inspector, met with the Board of Health July 15 to discuss several current problems. Although the deadline for reaching agreement with Berkshire Housing has been extended to November 30, 1996, with construction completed by June 30, 1997, the Board of Health would prefer completion of repairs this season. Interested residents should contact Tom Webb or Kevin DeWitt at 413-499-1630.

McLaughlin/Wilson Property Committees Appointed. The Select Board is still hoping for input from townspeople as to how the McLaughlin/Wilson property may best serve the needs of all Monterey residents. The suggestion box is in the entrance to Town Hall.

Several committees have been organized to care for and administer the Wilson bequest, as follows.

Arts Council: Georgiana Shepard, Lew Scheffey, Barbara Tryon, Cynthia Weber; liaisons, Fred Chapman and Anita Carroll-Weldon. The committee will select art objects and antiques to be acquired by the town.



McLaughlin/Wilson House Committee: Dan Andrus, Lew Scheffey, Gerry Shapiro; liaison, Fred Chapman. The committee is charged with the transfer of utilities and security to the town, as well as maintenance and needs.

Historical Commission (appointed by Select Board under Massachusetts General laws): Anne-Marie Makuc, Barbara Swann, Barbara Tryon, Ray Tryon, Cynthia Weber; liaison: Gige O'Connell. The commission will determine the historical significance of the McLaughlin/Wilson house and other sites in Monterey.

Historical Study Committee (appointed by the Commission): Thus far, Anne-Marie Makuc, Barbara Swann, Barbara Tryon, Ray Tryon, Cynthia Weber. The committee will implement findings of the Commission, look into listing on the National Register of Historic Houses, and also consider establishing an historic district.

Anniversary Committee: Thus far, Muriel Lazzarini, Kim Hines, Ray Tryon; liaison, Peter Brown. This committee will determine how Monterey celebrates its 150th anniversary, and how the McLaughlin/Wilson house will be part of the celebration.



MAGGIE LEONARD

Out of Africa: the new birds in town are fast runners, not high fliers. See p. 15.

Miscellany. Kerry Kelley requested and received a permit to practice massage therapy at her Brookbend residence.

On July 8 sealed bids for Highway Department equipment were opened and put on hold pending return from vacation of Highway Superintendent Don Amstead. Fortunately, he was back before the torrential rainfall of the following week. Pat Amstead was present at the Board meeting July 15 to advise that Don had recommended the bid of R. W. Tryon Construction be immediately accepted to meet the urgent need caused by flooding. Later that evening Don stopped by to advise the Board on the condition of various flood-damaged roads.

Arnold Hayes has resigned from Care of Soldiers' Graves. Linda Thorpe has seen to the placement of flags.

The Board reaffirmed at the July 22 meeting that there will be no directional commercial signs in Monterey.

— Jane Black

SPEAKER'S QUERY

For his upcoming talk (Friday evening, August 23, in the General Knox Room at the library) on the origins and development of the Monterey Fire Company, Ray Tryon is seeking photographs, newspaper accounts, or other documentation relating to past fires or Fire Company activity. Call him at 528-2982.

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

GOULD FARM'S COUNTRY FAIR

When I asked for 125 feet of white trigger canvas at the fabric store yesterday, the clerk stepped back from the counter, wide-eyed. "A large order. You must be making something very big," she said as three of them measured the bulky material, cut it, and shoved it into mammoth plastic bags. I only watched, pleased that she recognized the breadth of this sign-making project, but unprepared for the mass of material which barely fit into the trunk of my car.

As Gould Farm prepares for its fifth annual Country Fair on August 17, everything is squeezed to fit. Two hundred homemade pie crusts are squeezed into the freezer. Hand-colored publicity posters are squeezed onto overflowing community bulletin boards across South County. People are squeezed into unaccustomed roles: parking cars, selling lemonade, pushing raffle tickets. Performers are squeezed into a schedule. Expenses are squeezed to fit an unrealistic budget. And time is squeezed and squeezed from each day as we prepare to "make something very big," beyond our regular tasks.

The Country Fair endeavors to fit the larger community, the general public, into Gould Farm's smaller community, flexing and bending, hemming and hawing. As it goes at any neighborhood

block party, we'll be awkward with each other at first... and then we won't be able to tear ourselves apart. We'll enjoy local music, puppetry, magic, juggling, mime, theatre, dance, haywagon rides, face painting, cake walks, contra- and square-dancing—all squeezed into an eight-hour day. We'll feast on picnic foods grown on local farms (our own and others) and then squeeze in dessert.

Our theme, The Arts and Healing, will bring the Fair's diverse elements into focus. Crafters will include those from Camphill Village of Copake, New York, and Community Access to the Arts of Stockbridge—charitable organizations successfully engaging people with disabilities in creative production, drama, and music. It should be a source of pride to all of us that Berkshire agencies, long famous for artistic leadership, are increasingly concerned with quality of life services for residents with disabilities. Those who support the Country Fair celebrate the collective spirit of talent and service that makes these beloved hills such a special spot on earth.

Consider fitting the August 17 Country Fair into your summer. All proceeds will directly benefit the programs of Gould Farm, promoting a model of healthy community living. A day of fun will directly benefit everyone who attends!

— Kim Hines

WE'VE MOVED!

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC.

(Formerly on Main Road next to Roadside Store)

After almost 18 years of operation on Main Road in Monterey, we were finally forced to admit that we had outgrown our two locations here in town. So we've relocated to a 4800 sq. ft. facility (soon to be 7200 sq. ft. with a new state-of-the-art paint department) on Route 7, 1.5 miles south of the old fairgrounds. We'd like to invite all of our friends and customers to stop in and say hello, to take a look around our new shop. And as always, we offer free pickup and delivery, and lifetime collision repair and PPG paint guarantees. Thank you for your support.

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Emily Windover (left) and Tine Urspruch in a scene from the German production of The Scarlet Letter staged by Bigger Light Theater Company of Monterey. Bigger Light will perform the American classic at The Bidwell House on August 15.

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The Bidwell House has been invited into Round II Full Application for the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. If awarded, one-to-one matching funds of \$14,000 will help with necessary repairs to the Museum, paying for half the cost of replacing the roof of the parsonage, improving drainage, painting the building, and restoring the farm shop out-building. All repair work will be done in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. The roof will be shingled with cedar, painters will use a heavy-bodied white stain appropriate to the age of the house, and wherever possible original stones will be restored to the farm shop foundation.

To qualify for the grant, The Bidwell House must raise a matching \$14,000 by November 13, 1996, with firm letters of commitment by September 13, the date the grant application is due. The Museum must turn to the friends, contributors, and supporters of The Bidwell House for these matching funds. With this support, the Board of Directors is hopeful of reaching the goal. The Museum extends sincere thanks to Stefan Grotz, Georgiana O'Connell, and Peter Brown of the Monterey Select Board, Monterey Historical Commissioner Ann Makuc, and State Representative Christopher Hodgkins for their letters of support which helped us get through Round I of the grant application process.

In spite of heavy rains, The Bidwell House Annual Folk Concert drew fifty-

six people. Thanks to Keith Snow, we held the concert inside Monterey United Church of Christ, a beautiful space with excellent acoustics. The Calico Indian String Band gave a rousing performance.

August is also packed with events. On Saturday, August 10, at 5:30 p.m., Bigger Light Theater School will perform an operatic version of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, staged throughout the grounds of the Museum, each act with a different landscape. The audience will move, too, becoming part of the action. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

The Scarlet Letter will be performed by Bigger Light at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 15. The Bidwell parsonage is a perfect setting for this eighteenth-century drama. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Bigger Light Theater Company is an ensemble of ten actors, directors, and master teachers who have been together for over ten years. The company specializes in classical styles of theater, especially Shakespeare, with a commitment to bringing that work to plays of the American experience. The company is based in Monterey, but teaches and performs internationally. Their work has been praised for its innovative, physical, and highly theatrical style.

To round off the month, Herb and Garden Day will be held on Saturday, August 24, beginning at 10 a.m. Workshops will include Cooking with Culinary Herbs, and Wreathmaking. Admission for each workshop is \$15, including materials. Herb Day will also offer a tour of the heirloom vegetable garden and the herb garden. Reservations are required.

For information on all of these events, please call 528-6888. The Bidwell House is a wonderful retreat and an excellent place to take your summer guests. There are hiking trails and foot paths, fabulous gardens, and tours of the 1750 parsonage with a fine collection of eighteenth-century furnishings.

The museum is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Admission for house tours is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and \$1 for children.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

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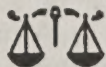
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AT NEW MARLBOROUGH'S MEETING HOUSE

A major restoration project is underway on the village green in New Marlborough. A grant of \$47,000 from the Massachusetts Historic Commission plumped up with nearly \$100,000 raised locally by the New Marlborough Village Association, is funding work now underway to restore the tower, belfry, and cupola of the Greek Revival building, which dates from 1839. The contractor on the project is GFI Builders of Canaan, New York, the engineer is Donald Montgomery, and the architect is Pam Sandler-Rota.

As restoration of the building progresses, its community is being revived as well. United Church of New Marlborough sold the building to the Village Association in 1975 for one dollar, and there followed a period of sporadic use, mainly for weddings, until 1992, when pianist and part-time New Marlborough resident Harold Lewin organized a Fourth of July concert there. That concert grew into a diverse series called Music and More for the Meeting House.

This summer's series began in July with a presentation by dancer Marge Champion, composer Dory Previn (both have practised their arts in film), and filmed special effects innovator Doug Trumbull. It continues on Saturday, August 24, with a program titled "Joy of Music, Wine, and Food," featuring a

wine auction combined with a wine and food tasting hosted by Wine Master Josh Wesson, and a concert of vocal and chamber music with soprano Leigh Adoff, violinist Dorothy Strahl, cellist Lucy Bardo, pianist Harold Lewin, and percussionist Ben Harms.

Three more programs will complete the season. On Saturday, September 7, Jim Fowler of the television series *Wild Kingdom* will bring birds of prey, young cats, and reptiles for a talk about his adventures with wildlife, and all will be treated to the short film *Ugambo*, a spoof on *Wild Kingdom* put together by the Konkapot Big Boys (the brothers Sellw and Sam Mills). Authors' day is Saturday, September 14, when New Marlborough resident Mitchel Levitas will host Mary Gordon (*The Shadow Man*), Jonathan Harr (*A Civil Action*), and Erika Jong (*Fear of Flying*). The series concludes on September 21, when the instrumental ensemble Calliope will perform Peter Schickele's *Bestiary for Renaissance Musicians and Instruments*. The group includes violinist Lucy Bardo and percussionist Ben Harms, both of New Marlborough, and trumpeter Allen Dean of Monterey.

These events are a fine example of world-class artistic talent with Berkshire roots performing at home. The community is appreciative, and lucky indeed. For tickets and information, call 413-229-3126. All proceeds benefit the Meeting House Restoration Fund.

Monterey United Church of Christ

Sunday Services • 10 a.m.

(Child care available)

For assistance & information:

Keith Snow (Pastor)	528-5850
Bob Emmel (Clerk, Trustee)	528-1321
Tom O'Brien (Trustee)	269-7471
Judy Hayes (Worship)	528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

MaryKate Jordan	528-5557
Mary or Ray Ward	528-9243
Judy Hayes	528-1874

EDIFICE COMPLEX?

Last month's *Monterey News* ran an appeal for information about the Monterey United Church of Christ. Kathy Wasiuk and Delight Wing Dodyk have undertaken a labor of love. They are researching the history of the church. The approaching sesquicentennial of the present church structure has prompted the project. Delight and Kathy will allow us the privilege of renewing our acquaintance with a building as well as a community of faith. Personally, I am immensely grateful to them. The results of their labors will be printed in the pages of the *News* later this fall.

Apart from Kathy's and Delight's labor of love, there is the more mundane (and obvious) need for extensive repairs and renovations to the church building. So what else is new? Church buildings have a way of engaging and engulfing. They engage because they are obvious symbolic structures wherein significant events in our lives occur. Birth, baptism, dedication; confirmation, membership; marriage; death, funeral. All are major stops on the journey of life for many people. For many others, the church is not only a major stop, it is a way station. It is a tangible expression of a group of people who are engaged, first and foremost, in an ongoing conversation with God and one another. It is, quite literally, a meeting house.

Church buildings engulf because, as with any building, they require from time to time rather large outlays of money. And rare is the congregation these days that can afford them! So it is natural to ask the question, Is it justifiable to spend large sums of money (more than can be raised by the people who use it most often) on a building? (What do you think?) I am reminded that the building is, in a significant way, indicative of an intangible presence that is more than stone, wood, cement, and glass. In one of those

ironic twists, the church (faith) community could survive without the building; but could the larger community survive without the building? Survive? Of course. But my guess is that the community would be that much more impoverished in spirit. (Obviously I am using terms that have different meanings to different people. Nonetheless, they point to that which/who is greater than self.)

So the irony is that both the struggling church community and the larger secular community are inextricably involved with each other's journey (mission?). Certainly the church community exists to bear witness to that God, Spirit, Presence, which is compassionate, loving, redemptive,

hopeful in a world that is increasingly cynical, suspicious, and fearful. I am enough of a hopeful believer to think that the larger secular community wants to see that witness encouraged and nurtured.

I think that Delight's and Kathy's research and story will reveal exactly that irony. As easy as it would be to fall prey to an "edifice complex," (preserve the building at all costs without giving due consideration to what it stands for), it will be far more useful to engage in a conversation with the portrait that will be painted with their words.

Besides, anything that is nearly 150 years old deserves a little help! Wouldn't you at 150?

— Keith Snow, Pastor
United Church of Christ



MAGGIE LEONARD

MPLT NEWS

There is a new river in Monterey. The Mount Hunger one. It runs ankle-deep in the old logging road that our intrepid Board members had cut and cleared in preparation for our annual meeting and picnic. We have rescheduled the picnic for Saturday, September 21, at 1 p.m.

Thanks for sending in your proxies. The business meeting was held at the home of Joyce and Lew Scheffey. Our slate of candidates was re-elected to new terms, with the exception of Eric Roper, who decided not to run for another term. He lives in New York City, and has just been unable to attend board meetings, and so this year, as his term was up, we have reluctantly let him go. Eric has been for a long time a faithful member of our board and our land trust. We have missed his able counsel these last years. On many occasions he and his wife Alice have lent their wonderful home to Land Trust functions. Both Sheffield and New Marlborough land trusts got their start at lively and beautifully hosted informational meetings in the Roper living room.

Eric's place will be filled by appointment; other current board members are Fred Chapman, Chris and Andi Dunlop, Robert Emmel, Gige O'Connell, Storrs Olds, Joyce Scheffey, and Roger Tryon. Officers will be elected by the board at its next meeting, to be held on August 12.

— Joyce Scheffey

NOTICE

The Monterey Select Board will hold a public meeting for second home owners on Saturday, August 10, 1996, at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall. The Board welcomes input from all Monterey second home owners.

—Georgiana O'Connell, Chair
Peter S. Brown
Fred W. Chapman
Monterey Select Board

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KNOX TRAIL RUN RESULTS

There was cool air and a blue sky on Saturday, July 20, the day of the fifteenth Knox Trail Run, perfect conditions except for a stiff headwind facing runners as they crossed Barnum Flats. This was the first year the Monterey Parks Commission handled organizing the race, taking over from Bob Gauthier, who has done the job singlehanded from the start.

The kids ran first, for fun: Lee Call from Sandisfield, and Carly Thomas, Tess Dunlop, Oona Sellev, and Giselle Connor, all from Monterey.

Overall, the fastest man running was Steve Parsons from Pittsfield, who covered the four-and-a-half mile course in 26 minutes and 51 seconds; fastest woman was Robin Hathaway from Dalton, who crossed the finish at 30:16.

In the various categories, Cory Jassen from Hartsville was first male runner in the 12-29 age group, and Amanda

Elliston of Brooklyn, New York, was first female; Robin Hathaway from Dalton took the women's 30-39 age group, and Peter Martin of Lenox was first man; in the 40-44 age group, Ron McMahon of Granby and Jean Whitehead from Great Barrington were first male and female; Gotha Swann of Pittsfield was first male aged 45-49, and first female was Fran Lischner-Call from Sandisfield; Nick Collin of Salisbury, Connecticut, and Nancy Larkin of Monterey were first man and first woman runner in the 50-54 age group; there were no female runners aged 55-59, but Bob Sieller of Canaan, Connecticut came in first among the men (and Bob Gauthier, long-time race organizer and a familiar figure running the roads in Monterey, took third in the category); among the runners older than 60, Murray Bodin of Monterey and Susan Haupt from South Egremont were the fastest man and woman.

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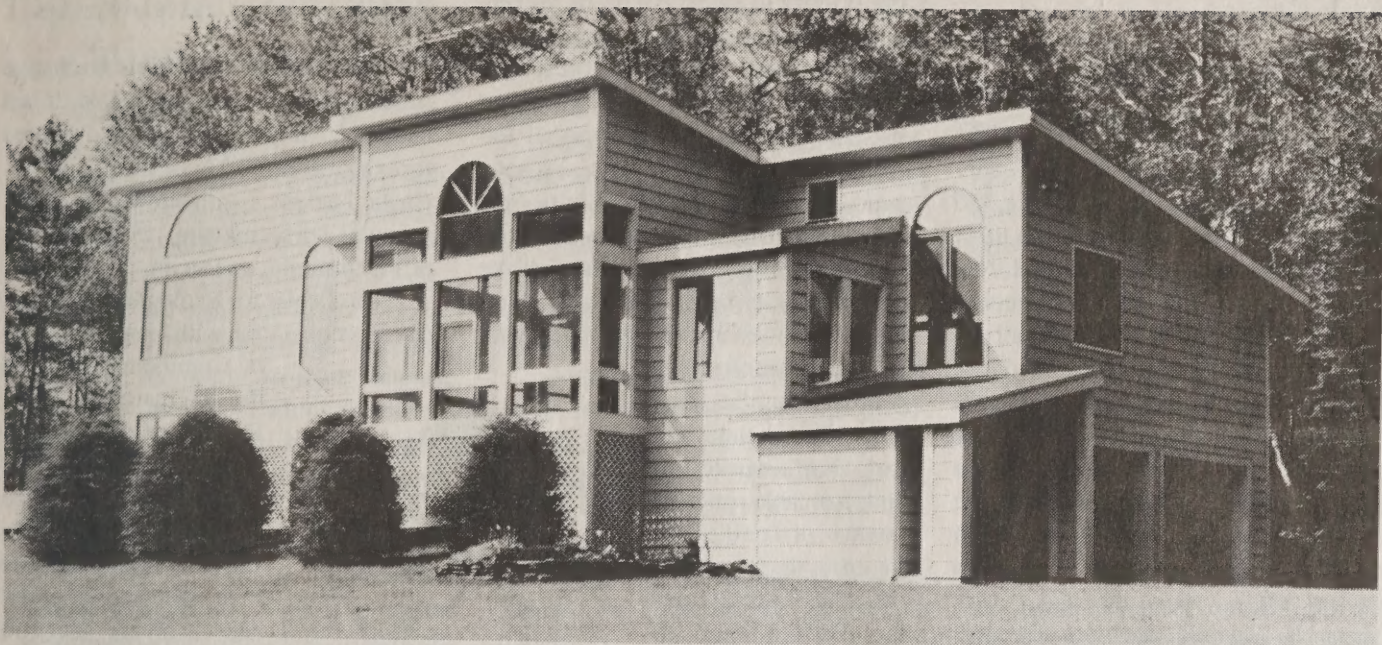
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COUNCIL ON AGING

On Friday, August 23, at noon in the basement of Town Hall, the Monterey Council on Aging will host a free luncheon followed by a quest speaker. Frederick Leuchs of Monterey is an unexcelled craftsman in stained glass window-making. He feels that there is a widely held myth that stained glass is a dying art. This is a falsehood of the highest order. These craftsmen, scholar and artisan alike, are men and women from every race and stock, all united in their craft—not by necessity of work, but by personal love of creating living color for places of worship, homes, and workplaces. In this craft an artisan can still design, make, and install his own handiwork. Mr. Leuchs will share his thoughts and beliefs on the creative art of stained glass. The public is invited.

— Pauline Nault

CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks for helping us to pay the bills, and thanks no less for your kind words. They keep us going, too.

John Humphrey &
Maggie Leonard
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
Scheffey

Edward & Peter
Moreton

Arthur & Phebe
Wing ("You do
a wonderful job
of drawing us all
into a real com-
munity—many
thanks.")

Georgiana O'Connell
Richard Grossman & Ann Arensberg
Richard & Edna Stoiber
Raymond Kirby

Bennett & Barbara Landis
Allan & Nancy Ratner
Donna Kanapes

JoAnn Elam
Ron & Veronica Yapple

Virginia Cesario
Peter & Susan LePrevost
Edward & Rochelle Brown

Lisa Simpson
Jeanne Randorf

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A presentation on the Monterey Volunteer Fire Company will be offered by the Monterey Historical Society on Friday evening, August 23, 1996.

Fire Chief Ray Tryon will relate the story of the early formation of the Company, and its later growth and expansion in responsibilities. Photographs and other memorabilia will also be exhibited.

Volunteer fire departments have been a mainstay of our communities from the earliest days. How the first firemen were gathered in emergency and how they actually fought the blazes has changed as much as the equipment they use. Today's high-tech equipment places increased demands on the firemen, but also provides them with greater capability for protection.

Come help us celebrate our firemen. It promises to be an interesting evening.

The program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the General Knox Museum adjacent to the library. For more information, call 528-3698.

— Cynthia Weber



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REP RAP

Mutual Fund Tax Breaks

—At What Cost?

Do you think one of the richest industries in the state should get a \$50 million yearly tax break? Do you think the fourth richest man in the world, Ned Johnson, CEO of Fidelity Investments, should be getting richer? I am all for promoting business, but why should we give away tax breaks when we cannot secure that the jobs will remain in the state? I voted against the measure to grant mutual fund firms tax breaks for these very reasons. While Ned Johnson collects interest on the \$5 million dollars he is worth, we spend that much every year on K-12 public education. And while Fidelity Investments manages assets greater than the gross domestic product of Canada, the government of Massachusetts has decided to grant them a tax break. I also feel that the tax revenue generated from firms like Fidelity Investments, which reported profits of \$431.1 million last year, is an important resource for our citizens. Recently Governor Weld proposed using this year's government surplus to give taxpayers, not the working poor, in the state of Massachusetts a one-time \$50 tax credit. If the governor had vetoed the measure to grant tax breaks for mutual fund firms, we could give the working poor some much-needed assistance, rather than giving Ned Johnson another \$50. Tax reductions in today's times of impending fiscal crisis make absolutely no sense at all. The Commonwealth should be giving

top priority to safeguarding its vulnerable residents and funding human services programs. For example, because of the already low funding level, waiting lists for services have become all too common. Five years ago, there was not a waiting list for Independent Living Services, now there are currently 250 consumers waiting. Likewise, waitlists for child care slots for low-income working families can last up to four or five years.

These slots are often what prevents families from being forced onto welfare. Furthermore, despite a notable rise in the number of families facing crisis, the Department of Social Services is serving 10,000 fewer families than it did five years ago. Massachusetts HomeCare, which allows senior citizens to remain in their own homes rather than nursing homes, serves 12,000 fewer elders than in 1988. I am in favor of creating a positive economic environment in which businesses can thrive in the Berkshires and throughout Massachusetts. But that development should not occur while we have many other commitments to honor for the state's residents.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

EXCHANGE CATALOG OUT

The Berkshire Materials Exchange summer catalog is now available. It is a listing of materials available and wanted for exchange around Berkshire County—plastic buckets, cardboard boxes, foam peanuts, horse manure, wood pallets, office furniture, and so on.

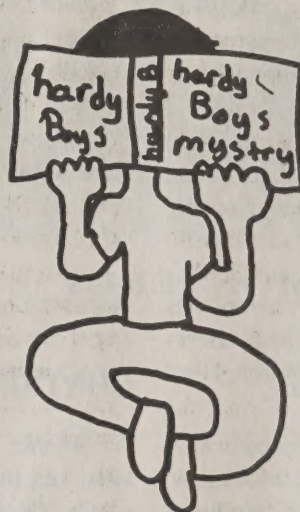
The Center for Ecological Technology, in cooperation with local Chambers

of Commerce, initiated the Exchange in 1994. Businesses and organizations disposing of reusable materials are matched with others who can use them. Donors save on disposal costs, and receivers save on purchasing costs. More than 150 exchanges have been facilitated during the life of the program.

The current catalog contains 280 listings, and is available free (voluntary donations based on savings are encouraged)

to local businesses and organizations. Funding for the project comes from the Rural Economic and Development Service of the USDA.

Those interested in receiving a catalog or listing reusable materials for exchange may call Joy Kirschenbaum of CET at 413-445-4556 or 1-800-238-1221.



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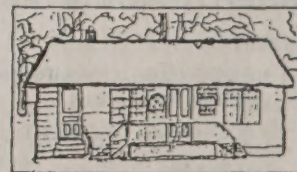
"The pancakes should be denoted by hubcap size

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-- Matthew Breuer, a Roadside regular

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FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

Summer is well upon us. I hope everyone is enjoying being outside.

Grandma's Attic, our toy and clothing exchange, is open by appointment during the summer. Volunteers have been wonderful in staffing the exchange during the school year. Our location on the third floor of Construct, Inc. is convenient, but too warm on many summer days. We are still accepting donations, and will open for families who request the service. Please contact Claudette or Loren at 528-9311.

A Medicaid representative, Judy Freurer, is at Fairview Hospital on Wednesdays (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) to answer your questions and assist you with problems. Please call 528-0790, ext. 3061.

The Family Support Network has received a small grant from the Berkshire Alliance for Drug and Alcohol Prevention to provide childcare for parents who need to keep a medical or counseling appointment, or attend AA meetings. Parents wishing to know more about the service can contact Claudette at 528-9311. Advance notice is requested.

In this schedule of activities, except as otherwise noted, phone 528-9311 for information or registration:

August 1, 8, 15 Parent-child playgroup at Undermountain School playground, Sheffield, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Rain cancels.

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 David Grover concert at Great Barrington bandstand area, 10 a.m.

August 6, 13, 20, 27 Parent-child playgroup at Housatonic School playground, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Rain cancels.

August 5, 12, 19, 26 Single Mothers' Playgroup, Russell House, 54 Castle St., Gt. Barrington, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Call Claudette.

August 7, 14, 21 Parking fee waiver for families at York Lake, Sandisfield State Park.

August 9 Fathers' Group will attend workshop, "Perfectionism" led by Bill Grosser of Berkshire Psychotherapy Services for Men, 7-9 p.m. Call Tony.

August 10 Book Fair to benefit

Family Support Network parent-child playgroups and Mason Library, at Mason Library, Main St., Gt. Barrington, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

August 13 Trip to Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox. Meet at Pleasant Valley at 10:30 a.m. Bring picnic lunch and blanket. Free, by the Arts Councils of Mount Washington, and Alford-Egremont, and CHP. Register by calling Claudette or Tony.

August 17 Country Fair at Gould Farm, Monterey, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Storytelling, puppetry, music crafts, games, home-grown picnic foods, contradancing. CHP will have half-price tickets. Call Claudette.

August 17 Fathers' Group at Russell House, 54 Castle St., Gt. Barrington. Call Tony.

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Parent-to-parent training at Russell House, 54 Castle St. To register, call Claudette.

August 22 Annual Blueberry Picking Trip to Mount Washington. Meet at Blueberry Farm at 10:30 a.m. or at CHP at 10 a.m. Charge for blueberries; bring picnic lunch. Call Claudette.

GED tutoring is available through Family Support Network. Volunteer tutors assist interested parents in studying for the Graduate Equivalency Diploma. Childcare available. Call Claudette.

Parenting tip of the month: take advantage of transition time (from *Growing Together*, July 1996).

Most families spend a great deal of time "in transition" getting from here to there or getting ready to do something else. Some examples are the time spent in the car, getting ready for school, getting ready for bed, preparing meals, and bathing. These are transition times. It is during these times that relationships between parents and children are built. You have a choice during each transition time. You can treat it like a task and concentrate only on getting it done, or you can make some of these transition times "relationship-building" times. You might want to schedule five minutes extra for bath time so you can play "boat" with your child. Or talk about your day when you pick up your youngster so he, in turn, will feel comfortable talking about his day. You might use the

time for casual conversation instead of talking about chores to do when you get home. Sometimes you can have conversations about "wishes" or favorite things to do or places to go. Children have a lot to say about what they like and don't like, and what's happening in their lives, for example, if we just take the time to ask questions...then *really listen*.

— Claudette Callahan

COUNTRY HOMES PROGRAM

A low-interest, no-down-payment loan program for first-time rural home buyers has been established by the federal Rural Housing Service (formerly known as the Farmers' Home Administration) and the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency. The program is called Country Homes.

A first mortgage, by the MHFA, has a term of thirty years at a fixed interest rate one or two percentage points below market, and covers 75% of purchase price; the second mortgage, by federal Rural Housing, has a term of thirty-three years at a variable interest rate (reviewed annually) set between 1% and 6.5%, and covers the remaining 25% of purchase price. The result of the combined loans is no down payment.

Monterey is an eligible Massachusetts community. Maximum income for a family of four to qualify for the program is approximately \$33,000. Borrowers must be first-time home buyers, and must occupy the home as their primary residence. Single-family homes and condominiums selling for \$111,000 to \$125,000 meet the requirements of the program.

Anyone interested may contact Rural Housing Services at the Federal Building in Pittsfield, 413-443-9624.

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN

They Say You Can't Go Home

Forty-seven years ago I bravely, with my husband and two little sons, one and four, loaded all our possessions into a wooden station wagon and crossed the country from Los Angeles to New York City. My mother, living there, had rented a bottom apartment in a brownstone in the West Seventies. "You will have a yard through the back door for the boys to play in!" I tried it one day. The boys came in, soot-black from toes to eyes. They had been playing in garbage dropped from the upstairs apartments. Four long blocks pushing a stroller to the park. This Californian family had been used to its own back yard with grass and avocado trees, the boys out a la nude.

This family found the quaint little village of Westport, Connecticut, on the Sound, with its artists and writers, film and theater people, and we moved there, staying twenty-five years.

I went back to Westport just the other day. Everything was in the camper for the five dogs, one cat, and beautiful turquoise parakeet Jock. I was planning on two and a half hours (always was). It took three and a half, almost speeding, to get there. I kept my eye doctor waiting half an hour. Bumper to bumper from Danbury down, like going into New York City. I said to the doctor, "I brought my son Tim to you after his accident thirty-three years ago! You're still around, I'm still around." We shook hands.

After the doctor we drove around. All streets are one-way now. I got mixed

up. This quaint little village was one- and two-storey wood buildings; now they're squeezed by ten- to fifteen-storey glass and concrete structures. Commuters didn't want to waste an hour taking a train into the city: they brought the city here. I lunched at The Mooring, out on the deck, watching the sculls go by, rowers bent double, on the Saugatuck River. The people at the next table were all dressed in city black suits. The talk ran "I can put off the meeting until Jim can get here from London." I lived two summers further down on this river on our boat "The Skylark" (renting our house). The boys loved it. We took a baby-sitter when we shoved off, so we could go ashore for dinner on Long Island or Nantucket, or in Essex. Tim now works for a big boatyard.

I went to visit Ellen, friend of forty years. Put the camper across in Sherwood Square. Walked by Frank and Karen's Beauty Shop. Frank saw me: "Come and say hello. I like the way you do your hair now." Ellen lives in a lovely Victorian house, blue with white gingerbread. Over tea we looked at photos of her grandson recently married, of her trip to Brazil to spend Christmas with her son. "Joan, Florence is coming to pick me up and go out to dinner." I hadn't seen Florence for twenty years. I waited.

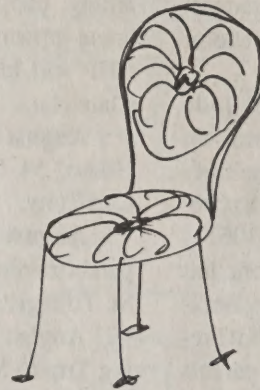
East on Route 1: everything new, every inch of ground covered. There was Grand Union, still there! Many trips there dragging two little boys by my side. Up Roosevelt Road, around the sharp curve (where my son Tony always drove too fast as a teen-ager). I pulled into Linda and Ken's. Linda is the daughter of Hardie Gramatky, gone now, who wrote the *Little*

Toot books. Linda has come back to live in the old house. I knew them because my house was across the street. I let the dogs run and play in the big back yard, gave them dinner (cat and bird, too), then went inside for a delicious dinner with wine of my own, a lot of good talk. We discussed London (I love London, and Linda had just returned). Out to the camper to sleep... dreams of taking two little boys to the beach... opening night of the Westport Players, I was the star... the

day I got off the train in Westport after studying dance in New York, and was met by—not Tony, but my sister-in-law: both boys had been in an accident. It was serious... Christmas dinner with mother (out from the city), myriad gifts for Tony and Tim (called Timmy back then).

In the morning, after coffee, I said good-bye to my host and hostess. I walked across the street,

camera in hand, to see my third Westport house. I had bought an old onion barn changed into a house. You should see it now! The barn has been sold three times. It looks like a mansion on the Danube! I lived there alone with my two sons as they went from their teens into college. The barn roof now has many dormers, cone-shaped with balconies. The grounds used to be au naturel. This day I counted four gardeners working on beds of shrubs and flowers. The camper went downtown, inching its way through impatient drivers. John, and his father before him, lived back of the Y (now enlarged to three times its former size). John's door was propped open. I went in. I looked at pictures of Ginny (who had been a tennis buddy of mine, and died suddenly about



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six years ago) and the children, now grown with children of their own. A book on the table. The same sugar bowl on the kitchen table (where we had many a meal). No John. I left. (Later that night, on my way home, spending the night at Ed and Ginny's in Easton, I learned that John had died from a heart attack two months before.)

I went to my second house in Westport. We built a huge barn from scratch on a corner on Wilton Road. Upstairs was a big photography studio, with a barn door so big you could drive a car in (for photographing it). We lived downstairs. We used boards from an ancient barn we saw coming down. I laid an old-brick patio myself in sand. I peeked around the corner: it was still there. We put up a corn crib outside for the boys. It had a little wood stove in it—still there. The people that bought from me made a wonderful big house of it, putting glass into the barn door. It had been bought again. The lady asked me to come in.

I didn't have time. Hurricane Bertha was on her way! Hurriedly I went to see my first house. I had seen this prize-winning house by architect Aim in the courtyard of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and got the plans. Three bedrooms, two divided by a sliding wall. We built it in the woods of Westport, off Old Hill Road. We put in a road to the house. Now that road goes down in the woods. My boys were babies back then. That can't be the house! Must be! A Scandinavian lady bought it, took it all down, except the long wall of glass. She

said the flat roof brought rot. She showed the inside; she was kneading dough for bread (her son was coming home from college). The old floor of tile on cement had been replaced with hardwood and marble. Old brick fireplace now marble. All the rooms were on different levels. White furniture. Black furniture. Two enormous baths with round tubs and skylights. A deck off the dining room in the trees, another off the bedroom. She said she was going to build an office for her husband, so "he won't be away so much." I drove off: whew, my gosh! I wondered if my babies would have liked this. The rain was starting. Better get to Easton.

Yes, you *can* go home, but you remember things you want to remember, and a lot of events you want to forget.

— Joan Woodard Reed

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THE CITY TERRIER AND THE BABY PORCUPINE

*I love this new place, wide and free,
And all the new smells, dizzying me;
Best of all is this largish rat,
All fuzzy like a fancy hat!
All its hairs are tipped with black—
It doesn't run, just turns its back
And waits for me to pounce and snap;
Its tail then gives my face a slap.
My nose and lips begin to sting—
This is more fun than anything!
(A joy that I begin to doubt
When someone pulls the stickers out).*

— David P. McAllester



ONCE AGAIN

*I've come to where I am.
Two young, vibrant forces drawing me back,
Here, where I need to be.*

*Another widow understood.
She said, "Look for small miracles."
And I have—
Between the tides of grief and the rage of change—
Clear, distinct miracles have
 made their way through.
And I marvel how they revive me,
 and instill hope,
Once again.*

— Melinda Olds



*I wish to be
Where the sea meets the trees
Where the cold deep whispers
To the listening leaves*

*There I will be
Bared to the bone,
Stripped of all motives,
Rapt, like a child
In the voice of the waves*

*Voices, voices
Depserate prayers, grieving curses
Children's joy, lovers' gasps
Wound in the waves
Cast fluent upon the sand
Ecstasy with sorrow
Carried keening on the wind*

*Voices, voices
Web of the water-womb
Chill mistress of men's hearts
Mirror to women's souls
One spell of bliss and doom*

*One sound, one voice
Is all I hear
One sound, one voice
Constant on the shore
Offering a peace
A restless slumber
In the alluring, endless murmur*

— Nick Hardcastle

BUYING BARNBOARDS

*His pumpkins piled in pyramids by the road
The farmer wiped his hands and talked in monotones.
The old barn there was seventy years old
Built the same year he was born.
I hoped to buy some boards before it rained.*

*He judged the sky and weighed his words
Supposed at fifty cents apiece the price was
More 'n fair
Then noted how the wind was pickin' up;
No way before it poured to get his chores done.*

*I could hardly hear him, what with the gusts
And the poplars snapping like fishing poles.
Zipping my jacket up
I said I could use forty if he could spare them.*

*I didn't think he'd heard me,
The way he looked hard at the barn for quite a spell.
Part of the roof was in
And thin shadows slipped like
Memories between the shrunken boards.*

*All right, he sighed quietly,
You got yourself a deal there sonny.
Turning then to shake on it
He guessed he might as well get back to work.
It wasn't getting easier, you know
And he'd been short a hand, why
Ever since his son moved to Mecklenberg.*

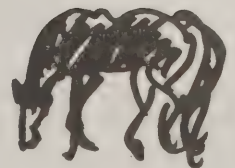
— Marshall Messer

THE MUSICIAN CAME TUESDAY

*The man came to take away
the old cello
that had stood in the closet
since I thought I'd died.
Its foot stood among
the old galoshes
and its neck
turned against the wall
was behind the raincoats
silent and
out of song
no longer kept.*

*The man said:
I never knew you played the cello!
and he wiped it briskly
with a cloth
and he tightened the strings,
whipped his own bow out of a fresh case
and played Plaisir d'Amour
in my livingroom
in the key of G
while I wept.*

A. O. Howell



BLUER THAN BLUE: THE INDIGO BUNTING

My earliest wish was to live on a farm. Back in kindergarten my favorite songs were the agricultural ones, like "Old MacDonald" and "The Farmer in the Dell." I sang them lustily, picturing myself right in there with the horses and the cows (in the dairy-o), wearing a cowboy hat, checked shirt, and jeans, with a piece of timothy between my teeth.

As luck would have it, there was a farm in the family and I got to live on it. The only trouble was that no one had farmed it in the Old MacDonaldian sense for the last two generations. We do have a dairy and horses that go everywhere a-neigh neigh but the truth is we live in a little hole in the woods. We have installed the chickens and all, but they are woods chickens. Every day they wake up, stretch, have some breakfast, and then fly over the fence in search of sunshine and dustbaths. These are the pleasures chickens were born to and ours have to hike around the driveway looking for a few sunny patches. They have a right to be grumpy; no doubt when they were in kindergarten they looked forward to a farm that was not all full of trees.

In the bird world it's not just the chickens that prefer open sky to mature hardwood forests. We hardly ever see a cardinal here and never a bobolink. Our bluebird boxes are full of mice, wrens, and caterpillars. Once in a while we get a fine thrill when a bluebird visits our orchard and appears to check out our nestboxes. In the end it's always the same, though: "Sorry, folks. You've been too stingy with the chainsaw. Much as we like the dwelling, the habitat won't do." Then off they fly to a bigger sky than our orchard and garden can provide. We know we've never had a bluebird nesting here.

There is another bird which is blue, though, that comes to thrill and to tease each spring. This is the indigo bunting, the size of a sparrow five-and-a-half inches long with a wingspan of about eight or nine inches. If you ever see the female, you'll think she is some brownish sparrow, but chances are you will not see her. Inconspicuousness is her specialty and she does all the feeding and

brooding of the young. The male indigo bunting is shades of blue from cerulean to ultramarine, from azure through greens to black. He changes with the light and his head is purplish. He gives a song that has been spelled out like this: "she tshe tshe—tshe tshe tshee tshee" and he may start it from standing on the ground and keep piping it as he hops up and up the branches of some tree until he gets to the



top where he sings on and on and on. Most birds stop singing when the day gets hot and go someplace shady to rest. Not so the male indigo bunting. He likes it hot and sunny and he likes to be seen while he is heard.

Because we hear and see a male indigo bunting from time to time, we can keep up the hope (or fantasy) that we have a pair nesting here. After all, the fact that we never see the female doesn't mean she isn't here. You could even argue that our not seeing her just proves she is here, so invisible is the typical female indigo bunting. We know that her favorite summer foods are plentiful here: caterpillars and small beetles, especially curculios. Our orchard is famous for these. I think there are enough for both indigo buntings and blue birds—there certainly are more than our chickens can keep up with.

If you are out in a brushy or scrubby meadow, especially along the edge, and hear a sound like someone clicking two pebbles together, you are probably near an indigo bunting nest. Look for a flashy blue guy or an invisible brownish spar-

row, but don't think they will reveal the nest site to you. You'll have to sneak back sometime and watch carefully until you see the invisible one go by with a curculio beetle in her mouth. Then you can follow her and look for a nest of dried grass, dead leaves, bark strips, snake-skin, and weed stems. It is likely to be within ten feet of the ground and may contain three to four pale blue or white or tinted with green eggs. These are generally laid in early June or toward the middle of the month, and hatch twelve days later. In a good habitat (unlike ours, I suppose), a pair of indigo buntings may raise two broods in a summer. A male with a particularly bountiful territory may have two mates. This is called polygyny.

I'm sure the popular definition of "farm" does not contain an indigo bunting clause, but I'll never forget the visit of some friends many years ago. Their five year-old got out of the car and frowned. He was disappointed. "I thought you said they had a farm." His parents assured him this was a farm. "I expected a great green grassy place!" he complained. I have to say I know exactly what he meant. I do the milking twice a day, collect the eggs, sing the old songs and chew on grass stems. But I don't think we'll have a Real Farm here until we get out the chainsaw and make the indigo buntings happy.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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OSTRICH FARM

Out of the wreckage left by the tornado near the intersection of Routes 23 and 57 a new farm has grown up. David and Beth Ziegler fenced off a clearing where a year ago there was only a tangle of ruined trees, built a small barn, and brought home two pair of African Black ostriches from Black Wing Ostrich Farm in Atwater, Ohio. The birds are yearlings that David says he will breed next season, raising their offspring for the meat or breeding markets. According to David, there are only two other farms in Massachusetts that keep ostriches, one in Whately and another in Dartmouth.

The African Black stock from which the newly arrived Monterey ostriches were bred came to America in 1986. They eat a pellet feed and graze on red clover and alfalfa. David says the market for ostrich has been dropping gradually for several years now, bringing the animal within reach for enterprising farmers and adventurous consumers. At press time, the Zieglers are planning a trip to Saratoga



MAGGIE LEONARD

on July 28 to watch ostrich races at the famous thoroughbred track. The big birds will also race at the Big E this September. Ostrich husbandry can have many aspects.

David welcomes visitors. Look for Rockwell Road off Route 57 just below the Hayloft Gallery. Early evening is the best time.

— Peter Murkett



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WILDLIFE SURVEY

On the Roadside. The viburnums have given way to wild parsnip, growing in masses along the roadside and waste places, up to five feet high with flowers in flat yellow umbels up to six inches wide. You may see the vivid shiny red of clusters of baneberries (not to eat) and the milder red of wild raspberries, one of nature's delicacies. Day lilies and Queen Anne's lace are also abundant now. Bears. A few years ago, bears were part of Berkshire mythology: old-timers could tell you of the "last bear" to be seen in these parts, decades ago, and the title "Beartown State Forest" was ironic. In the last month there were sightings there, on Hupi Road, and Cronk Road. The sad story of a 140-pound black bear hit by a car on Route 7 near Brodie Mountain in Lanesboro on July 15 was in the newspapers. Its last moments were made easier by the care of representatives of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the state Environmental Police, and a local veterinarian. Our own bear story of the month is from Ed Salsitz of Beartown Mountain Road: "Friday, June 14: arrived to find all my bird-feeders destroyed. Knew this was due to bear—had similar episode four years ago, did not see the bear. June 15: set up one broken bird feeder. June 16, 6:30 a.m.: big black bear breaking the one bird-feeder. Looked magnificent—but I was scared. After finishing the sun flower seeds he walked toward the house and then into the woods. My street finally lived up to its name."

Other large neighbors. A large and unusually tame great blue heron has been seen several times on the shore at Parker's Cove, Lake Garfield. Bonner McAllester saw five of these imposing

birds flying up from the east end of the lake on July 16. The "Gould Farm moose" has been seen again, and perhaps is the same one seen by Route 23 on the edge of Otis State Forest recently. A bobcat was seen on Cronk Road the week of July 8, and several deer have been reported in different parts of town. One was killed by a car on Route 23 east of Monterey center. Dale Duryea asks, "Where are the fawns?" If any have been seen he hasn't heard about it, and wonders if the unusually hard winter has somehow cut down on the birthrate?

Late note: a spotted fawn and a somewhat older young deer were seen on two mid-July evenings in a row below Lowland Farm. They disappeared into the willow thickets near Rawson Brook.

Porcupines. A large adult, unusually brown porcupine took up residence in a tall poplar by the east end of Hupi Road July 13 and 14. There is a litter of twigs and small branches under poplars these days, each nipped off and some, or most, of the leaves eaten by porcupines as they perform their self-appointed task of poplar pruning. There seem to be innumerable young porcupines wandering by themselves in the woods, and Dale reports porcupines "all over."

Other reported sightings: woodchucks, skunks; otter and mink in the Konkapot River; buzzards, red-tailed hawks, coyotes, a baby snapping turtle on Route 23, a small raccoon cub at

Bradley Farm. There were three cases of rabid raccoons in the region, but not Monterey, in early July.

Around Lake Garfield. The season of bloom for mountain laurel is ending, service berries (shadbush) are ripe along the north shore, the first highbush blueberries are getting ripe, elderberry is displaying its big white umbels, meadow sweet and tall meadow rue can be seen here and there. Shrubby cinquefoil adorns old stumps in the water with its yellow

blossoms. Yellow pond lily (cow lily, spatterdock) is blooming in some of the coves and the long-stalked floating heart (referring to the leaves) raises its small white flower above miniature float-

ing lily-like leaves. There are white water lilies in Royal Pond and Benedict Pond. Will anyone report on Monterey's other ponds and lakes?

Other wild flowers. Sweet pepper is in bud, clintonia is bearing its bright blue berries, white baneberry ("dolls' eyes") will soon follow the red, but its fruit is now in racemes of small green buttons. Also: Jo Pye weed, milkweed, mullein (in rare proliferation where logging activity followed deforestation by the tornado), black-eyed Susan, flowering raspberry (thimbleberry), wild roses, Canada lily, vetch, meadow pink, red clover, purple and yellow loosestrife, swamp azalea, swamp candles, water smartweed, pipsissewa.

Bluebirds. We've reported a general scarcity of bluebirds in earlier issues. Elmer Mellen, the bluebird authority for this region, says that this is the case everywhere. There have been periods of relative abundance, with a good many bluebirds even wintering over during mild winters, but this year very few families are reported from his far-flung network of observers. (See letter, p. 22.)

— David P. McAllester



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LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

On June 22 the Lake Garfield Association held a well-attended meeting at the firehouse. A lively and informative discussion related to current dock registration laws was the featured attraction of the morning. New officers were elected, each serving a two-year term, as follows: President, David Quisenberry; Vice President, Georgiana Shepard; Secretary, Maryanne Jaffe; Carlo Romairone returns as Treasurer.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17 at 10 a.m. in the firehouse. If you have any questions concerning the Association, please contact me at 528-2744 or in Connecticut at 860-295-0516.

— David Quisenberry

UPON MY WORD!

Here are two summer brain teasers:

1) Can you think of two words that contain all the vowels in their proper alphabetical order—a, e, i, o, u?

2) Can you think of a one-syllable word that has seven consonants?

Answers next month.

— Alice O. Howell



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PIXLEY REPRISE

When we undertook the Hannah Pixley story, we hoped that publication might in time shake a few more historical leaves off the bushes. Sure enough, Bernie Drew, long interested in local history, sent us a copy of the first of the two stories that appeared in *The Berkshire Evening Eagle* in 1936 (we featured the second, published in August of that year, in the January, 1996, issue of the *News*). The author is not named, but the story read as follows:

LEE, Feb 21.—Mrs. M. H. Ariail, 73, and her daughter, Miss Mary Ariail, 50, who are snowbound in their nine-room house near Sky Peak, atop Beartown Mountain, received an unexpected visit yesterday afternoon from an Eagle reporter and friend, who were forced to ski over two and one-half miles of snow.

When the visitors reached the home they observed the two women draw their chairs close to the window, wipe the frost from the glass and peer out at their unexpected guests. The two hardy skiers were the second visitors the Ariails had had since last fall. They were a bit skeptical of the pair at first but after the reporter pulled out copies of *The Eagle* from his sweater and showed them to the occupants they were allowed to enter—but not to sit down until they had told of their mission.

Delighted With Eagle

After explaining that the visit was to obtain a story and to see that they were in good health and not in need of food or more fuel, Mrs. Ariail consented to an interview. While Mrs. Ariail was talking to her visitors the daughter leaned over from her broken chair and reached for a

copy of the weekly edition of *The Eagle*.

"You don't know how much we appreciate your bringing these to us," said the daughter. "We haven't had a chance to find out what's going on in the outside world in some time." Gazing over the front page of Tuesday's *Eagle* Mrs. Ariail was amazed to find that Hauptmann was still fighting for his life. "It's about time that case was gotten over with, don't you think?" she said. "The State of New Jersey must have spent quite a bit of money."

Speaking of money, Mrs. Ariail said, "I think that this government of ours is spending too much money, too. We'll be ruined before we know it. The trouble with a lot of these American people is that they want altogether too many things. They should live up here for a while and learn to make the best of things. I don't mean to economize but just to get along with what you have got."

Last November was the last time the Ariails went to town. And the day before Christmas was the last time they have been outside of their yard, Mrs. Ariail said. A few years ago, "when we had cattle we were forced to dig tunnels through the snow to reach the cow barn. I am getting too old for that stuff now and so we haven't any livestock on the place."

Use Only Two Rooms

Mrs. Ariail and her daughter use only two of the nine rooms in the house. The cellar of their home "sprung a leak early in the fall," said Mrs. Ariail. "We tried to repair it but didn't succeed. Then the cold weather set in and the cellar froze. We had a lot of our provisions down there and had to move everything up stairs into the kitchen. When we were moving the stuff I fell, injuring my head. I thought for sure my skull was fractured and became terribly nervous. I didn't know what to do. My daughter

hurt her foot and couldn't very well manage those snowshoes to go to our neighbors for help. I kept up my courage and finally the injury healed, but I was laid up for three weeks. We could both be dead up here and no one would know it, probably until next summer, when the road is opened again."

Turning back to *The Eagle* the mother saw a story to the effect that the County Commissioners told about the excellent conditions of roads in the county.

"I guess they don't know this one out here is still in the county," she said. "Why if that road was broken open we would be able to get to Mr. Stedman's (their nearest neighbor—two and one-half miles away) and go into Lee for some fresh food. We could also get to see a doctor once in a while too."

Aunt in Lenox Dead

Mrs. Ariail said that when Mr. Stedman "came up to visit us one day, a few weeks ago, he told me that my aunt, Mrs. Emma L. McCarthy, died in Lenox." Mrs. McCarthy was 99 years old, the oldest resident of Lenox at the time of her death.

Asked what they did all winter while they were snowbound they said that in the past few years "we hooked rugs and made garments for needy children but this year we haven't done much of anything because we haven't been feeling well."

Mrs. Ariail said that last year she and her daughter made 60 small dresses for needy children. They didn't give them to any organization for distribution but gave them personally to families who needed them.

In some places there are seven to eight feet of snow around the house. The snow on the road in front of their home is about four feet deep.

As *The Eagle* reporter and friend started on their skis down the road, back to their car, the aged woman and her daughter stood in the doorway asking them to return with more news if they are up that way again.

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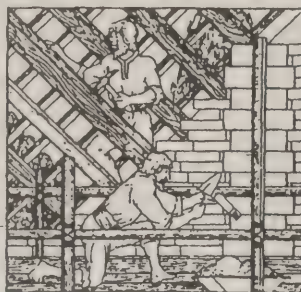
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THE ELEPHANT ROCK COMMUNITY

Thanks to Georgiana Shepard, we have an account of the community established in the early years of this century around Elephant Rock on Lake Garfield, an account originally given as a talk by Olive Davis at the Monterey Historical Society in 1975.

On Hupi Road about a hundred feet past the intersection of Hupi Road with the Elephant Rock Road, there is a huge sandstone rock about ten feet from the road. If you look quickly you may think that you are seeing an elephant. This rock was the inspiration for the name of the road. Mr. Wallace Tryon in his manuscript on the history of Monterey says that the rock is located on what was once on the farm of Hyland Dowd.

Hyland Dowd had two daughters; Grace became Mrs. Scott and Jennie became Mrs. Rogers. Many of the early settlers on Elephant Rock Road bought land from the Grace Dowd estate. Jennie Dowd Rogers lived for many years on the Hunger Mountain Road in the first house you come to after leaving Route 23. The house is still standing. Mrs. Rogers celebrated her eighty-second birthday in

1943 and is reported to have said at that time that her ancestor Cornelius Dowd came to the Berkshires in 1730 and bought land from the Indians for six felt hats. Another version of the transaction is that the land was bought for ten beaver hats. The original name of Hupi Road was Dowd Road as the land on both sides of the road was owned by Dowds. At one time members of the Elephant Rock group considered asking the town to change the name of Hupi Road to Beaver Hat Road.

The founder of the Elephant Rock community was the Rev. Dr. Robert Brown, husband of brave and loyal Mabel Brown. She showed both these qualities in aiding her husband in his camping and other activities. Dr. Brown was a vigorous, hearty man over six feet tall who had many talents. He was a poet, carpenter, preacher, and teacher. He was born in Manitoba, Canada, and after working at several jobs in Canada, hitch-hiked with a friend to Oberlin, Ohio, where he enrolled in Oberlin College. It was there that he met Mabel Milliken. They graduated from Oberlin about 1900. Soon after they were married Robert went to Yale Divinity School, where he graduated in 1903. He became pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Waterbury, Connecticut. About 1905, while pastor

of the Waterbury church, he came to Monterey with some friends, loved the beautiful wooded lake and hills and sent a telegram to his wife asking her to bring camping equipment and a shovel, and to meet him in Great Barrington. After gathering things together, Mabel took a train to Norwalk, changed to a train for Great Barrington, met Robert, and together they took the stage to Monterey. It seemed like a long trip. The camping expedition on Lake Garfield was such a success that they continued to spend summer vacations there. They camped at various locations, at first on what is now known as The Point, and after 1910 settled on a site on the Parker property.

About 1910 while Robert and Mabel were camping on the Parker property, Mrs. Nellie Bogart, a widow from Mount Vernon, who was the mother of Harvey Bogart, bought some of the Dowd property. About 1918 she sold some of this land to Dr. Nathaniel H. Ives of Mount Vernon for a girls' camp to be run by his daughters Eleanor and Alice. The camp became Camp Fernway, later Camp Glenmere, and now Camp Shalom. Dr. Fred Emmel, a friend of Dr. Ives, bought land about 1920 from Mrs. Bogart and built a boathouse. Adjacent to Dr. Emmel's lake shore property were two houses built by a carpenter from Stockbridge, Mr. George Breed. These cottages were later sold to Mr. James Wilson and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Lindsay. Today [1975] these houses are owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Camp and Mr. and Mrs. John Roth.

Mrs. Nellie Bogart seemed a frail little woman but she had great courage and vision. She envisioned a bungalow-type community, and laid out roads such as Lakeside Drive and Maple Avenue. She built five houses and developed the spring on her land near the Hunger Mountain Road and piped water down, so that as early as 1936 we had gravity water. Several cottages she rented. She sold one house opposite the entrance to Elephant Rock Road to Dr. and Mrs. Henry Lutz in 1932. Mrs. Bogart lived at one time in the first house on Elephant Rock Road. At her death this house was bought by the Elephant Rock Association and made into a club house. Today it is owned by

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OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 3-6 p.m.

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Dr. and Mrs. David Lowman. It was Nellie Bogart's son Harvey and his wife who sold the last of Nellie's lakeshore property to Dr. and Mrs. John Miller of New Haven about 1968.

Dr. Brown and his wife loved Monterey and wanted to buy land on the lake. In 1920 Mrs. Grace Dowd Scott agreed to sell him 100 feet of lake shore and to allow him to use the dead chestnut trees on the mountain to build a log cabin. The cabin was built in 1922 by Dr. Brown with the help of some friends and John Benson of Monterey and his old white horse Dolly. Originally the cabin had one large room with a fireplace, two sleeping lofts, a porch with a beautiful view of the lake and an outside kitchen with a fireplace type grill. Since then the cabin has been enlarged.

The enthusiasm of Robert and Mabel proved to be so contagious that relatives, Oberlin classmates and friends who visited bought property and built homes. Among relatives who bought land before 1930 were Mabel's sister Mrs. Grace Behr, her brother Mr. Max Milliken, and Oberlin classmates Earl and Katharine Adams. Harley and Rachel Lutz bought in 1932, as did the associate pastor of Dr. Brown's Waterbury church, Dr. Morton Owens. Mr. Herbert Peterson, a friend of a friend of Dr. Brown, bought land in 1930.

As the community grew, there were problems concerning the private road, electricity, the lake shore, and the water system, and to solve some of them an association was formed. Its purpose was to protect the interests of the property owners. After the purchase of the club house the purpose became social as well as business.

There are many happy memories of

the social activities—sitting around a camp fire on the shore of the lake, singing songs and yodeling to hear the echoes from the opposite shore or hill. There were cook-outs at the Browns', Saturday night dinners at the club house where Dr. Lutz made his special chef's salad, and Rachel brought delicious baked beans. There were amateur theatricals. Once Mabel Brown impersonated Eleanor Roosevelt to our delight. There were interesting programs given by members and their guests.



MAGGIE LEONARD

It was the people who made up the colony that made us feel fortunate and rather special. Three members of the group wrote poetry. Katharine Adams' landscapes were much admired and she excelled in the decorating of old tin trays and furniture using early colonial and Dutch designs. It was Katharine who restored the old shutters on the village store and repainted the lists of products originally sold there. It is hardly fair to mention one name and not others, as all gave of their talents and participated in the activities of the colony and those of the town, and helped to sponsor them. Perhaps Dr. Brown gave the most with his dynamic leadership and enthusiasm. He died in 1938 of a heart attack in Oberlin where he had been Professor of Practical Theology in the Oberlin Theological Seminary. His wife Mabel continued to spend summers in Monterey

until her death in 1970 at the age of ninety-two.

Over a period of forty years there have been many changes. Trees have been cut so that the lake is not as wooded as it was. The eagle, wildcats, whip-poor-wills, and most of the owls and herons have gone, but we have Canada geese, motor boats and water skiers, as well as sail boats, canoes, and fishing boats. Due to the generosity of Edith Chamberlin and the Adams grandchildren, we have a beautiful blacktop tennis court.

Many of the present property owners are children or grandchildren of the original Elephant Rockers. They seem as enthusiastic as their forebears about Monterey, the beauty of the lake and mountains, and the community. Perhaps their thoughts in the spring of the year are not unlike those recorded by Rachel Lutz in the following poem, which she called "Monterey:"

In early summer with the scent of May
A restless yearning creeps into my day
A faint, sweet sound from far away—
Listen! 'Tis the call of Monterey.

Like swallows who fly north in early spring
Had we the gift of flight we'd soar and sing
And take our way with fancy running free
Back to our hills and lake and hemlock tree.

What is the secret of this deep content?
That gives us leave to call the days "well spent"
That measure off our summer year by year?
There is a spell upon the place, I fear.

A sweet and subtle spell quite green and fresh
And if it catches us within its mystic mesh
And holds us so until the turn of fall
None has complaint, it is the wish of all.

PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Phebe Dodyk** and **Adam Kirshner**, who were married in New Marlborough on June 15. Phebe is the daughter of Paul and Delight Dodyk, who have a cottage on Lake Garfield. The newlyweds went off for a hike in the mountains of Italy and then relaxed in Sicily before returning to Berkeley, California, where they will make their home.

Monterey fans should know that **Judith Malafronte** will be singing at Saint James Church in Great Barrington on August 3 with the Aston Magna Festival. She will be Nero (yes, a male role!) in *The Coronation of Poppea*, a very racy old opera by Monteverdi. Judith, husband **Richard Westenburg** and children, former Lake Garfield residents, are thriving and busy at their new home in Redding, Connecticut.

Hats off to **Shaylan Burkhart**, son of Wayne and Donna Burkhart of Gould Farm, who received the Colby Book Award, presented to a Mount Everett

student with a "strong academic record who has made personal and extracurricular contributions to the school and community."

Kudos to these Monterey students named to the honor roll at Monument Mountain and Searles Middle School in Great Barrington for the fourth and final quarter: in grade nine, **Gabriel Schulze** earned Honors and **David Shea** achieved High Honors, and in grade ten **Bethany Sadlowski** made High Honors. In grade seven, **Lauren Goldfinger** earned Honors and **Mariah Rutherford-Olds** achieved High Honors. A fine finish! Great job, all of you!

If any Monterey folk find themselves in Worcester sometime, be sure to stop in at the Main Street Brewing Company for dinner or refreshment. **Howard and Ellen Abrams** of Beartown Road, along with their sons, have transformed the old downtown building at 244 Main into a thriving beauty. They would be absolutely thrilled to see some Monterey faces. We wish them all well—and don't forget to look them up!

Any news, birthday greetings, etc. you would like to share? Give me a call at 528-4519, or jot items down and drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23. Thanks in advance!

— Stephanie Grotz

P. O. BOX NINE, 01245

Three Contributions

July 8, 1996

To the Editor:

We read the *News* with interest and delight, and from cover to cover. The quality of the writing, subject matter, and layout surely should garner some awards in local newspaper competitions! Please accept our check; and you can count on an annual contribution from us.



Also, for the Wildlife Survey, my husband Allan, daughter Jody, and I saw a

bluebird enter our bluebird house on July 6, and another (possibly) that took off as we approached.

Sincerely,
Nancy Ratner

Zoom

July 18, 1996

To the Editor:

My eight-year-old son recently commented to me that "people drive too fast on dirt roads. They think that no one else is on them and they drive in the middle of the road."

He proposed that we make a 20 mph speed limit sign for our road. I hope people heed it.

— Michèle Miller
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Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	4.13"
High bar. press. (6/1)	30.35"
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CALENDAR

Saturday, August 3 Gallery opening, 3-6 p.m., Hayloft Gallery, Route 23/57 intersection. Photography by Jean Germaine, drawings and paintings by Leonard Weber.

Sundays, August 4, 11, 18, 25 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Saturday, August 10

Public meeting with Select Board for Monterey second homeowners, 10 a.m. in Town Hall.

The Devil and Daniel

Webster performed by Bigger Light School for Actors on grounds at The Bidwell House, 5:30 p.m. Admission, \$8 adults, \$4 children, Rain, call 528-6888.

Thursday, August 15 *The Scarlet Letter* performed by Bigger Light Theater Company on grounds at The Bidwell House, 6 p.m. Admission, \$10 adults, \$5 children. Rain, call 528-6888.

Saturday, August 17

Lake Garfield Association meeting, 10 a.m. in the firehouse.

Country fair at Gould Farm, 10 a.m.-6

p.m. Live music, storytelling, puppetry, contradancing, etc. Information, 528-1806.

Tuesday, August 20 Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Wednesday, August 21 Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Friday, August 23

Free luncheon at 12 noon in basement room of Town Hall, guest speaker stained glass artist Fred Leuchs.



Fire Chief Ray Tryon speaking on origins and history of Monterey Fire Company, 7:30 p.m. in General Knox Room next to library. Information, 528-3698.

Saturday, August 24 Herb Day at The Bidwell House, from 10 a.m. Cooking with Culinary Herbs and

Wreathmaking workshops, \$15 each. Reservations, 528-6888.

"Joy of Music, Wine, and Food," Concert, wine auction and tasting, 4 p.m. at Meeting House and Old Inn on the Green, New Marlborough. Information, 229-3126.

Square and contradance at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

We invite written contributions, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor.

Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager.

Address your request for advertising rates and information to the Editor. For further information, telephone the Editor at 413-528-3454.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, pp. 12, 13; Maureen Banner, pp. 1, 7, 16, 22, 23; Stephen Bynack, p. 8; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Lizzie Meier, p. 12; Pete Murkett, p. 10.

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